

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 11, 1997**

Present:

Acting Chairman

Deputy Mayor Michael J. Munday Councillor Bruce H. Morse Councillor John P. Prall Councillor Michael E. Trinacty Councillor Gary W. Whittier Councillor Ronald G. Reeves Robert Stewart, Town Solicitor Judith Mitchell, Town Clerk

Absent:

Mayor John W. Rainforth

In attendance:

Sara White, Berwick Register

1.

The Acting Chairman called the meeting to order at 7: 08 p. m., and advised that the Mayor was away over March Break and unable to attend.

2.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

(a)

Hearing of no errors or omissions, the Acting Chairman approved the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 11, 1997; as circulated.

(b)

The following minutes were circulated for the information of Council:

(i) (ii) (ill)

Berwick Electric Commission Social Services Committee Police Commission

February 19, 1997, circulated February 27, 1997, circulated February 27, 1997, circulated

3.

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Any items to be discussed will arise under Committee Reports.

4.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY** by Councillor John Prall.

Councillor Prall presented a report prepared by Vaughan Environmental consultants Limited in February 1997 entitled Valley Region Resource/Solid

Waste Management Plan. This report was prepared under the control and direction of Region 5, which was made up of one (1) elected and one (1) non-elected representative from County of Annapolis, County of Kings,

Town of Annapolis Royal, Town of Berwick, Town of Bridgetown, Town of Kentville, Town of Middleton, and Town of Wolfville. The Town of Berwick was represented by Councillor John Prall and Mr. Levi Sherman, (and in Councillor Prall's absence, by Deputy Mayor Munday). The Report needs to be accepted in principle so it can be submitted to the Province for their approval. The next part of the process would then be to start drafting an Inter-Municipal Agreement for the eight municipal units involved.

Councillor Prall reviewed two diagrams of flow charts in detail. Figure 1: Recommended Valley Region Resource/Solid Waste Management System, which tracked waste generation from the Residential Sector and the Industrial/Commercial/Institutional Sector through source reduction,

various types of collection, and diversion from the waste stream for re-use and recycling of certain materials, and composting; leaving the final residual to be disposed of. Figure 2: Valley Region Resource/Solid Waste Management System Implementation Schedule outlined the specific shortterm and long-term goals which must be achieved between now and the year 2000 to meet waste diversion targets established by the provincial Dept. of Environment Regulations. (Both flow charts are attached to the formal copy of the Minutes).

The Province has established minimum diversion targets of 50%; however, the strategy is based on diversion targets of 57%, 68%, and 86%. Generally, the more waste diverted from the waste stream, the more expensive the Solid Waste Management system becomes, as illustrated below:

| Diversion Rate | Estimated Annual Cost Per Tonne | Estimated Householder Cost per Year | Estimated Capital Costs |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 57%            | \$67 - \$70                     | \$122 - \$127                       | \$14 million            |
| 68%            | \$65 - \$68                     | \$117 - \$124                       | \$14.3 million          |
| 86%            | \$70 - \$74                     | \$127 - \$134                       | \$16.3 million          |

However, it was considered that \$134/year while achieving 86% diversion targets would still be quite a reasonable cost. In addition to annual costs, there may be a cost to each householder for a wheeled cart (\$80. OO?), Dry Recyclable Box (\$5?), and a Paper Bin (\$5?). These additional costs of \$90/household may be spread out over an extended time period.

There are certain scenarios and assumptions in the completed Report that were based on siting of a Landfill in Annapolis County. These will have to be re-calculated once a more definite site is pinpointed. As well, assumptions on physical location of a Transfer Station and haulage fees; and whether to go with a Front End Processor system or not, (like Lunenburg's} , may be subject to further change and re-calculated costs. This particular study, however, deals with the management of Solid Waste in this Region. Siting a landfill is a whole other issue.

Councillor Prall noted that the Resource Recovery Fund allocates funds from recyclables back to those Municipal Units with proportionately higher diversion targets. This acts as an incentive to achieve the improved diversion rates.

Deputy Mayor Munday noted that to a certain extent, "it's putting the cart before the horse", but the Province is mandating the process. A motion to accept the Report does not commit Council to spend specific funds, but we do know it will cost us. This Report is the result of three years of work. The Committee has completed its task and the Report is submitted for approval; basically, a motion is needed to approve the Report to proceed to the next stage of the process.

Therefore, it was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Prall to make the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Valley Region Resource / Solid Waste Management Plan prepared by Vaughan Environmental Consultants Limited be approved for submission to the Department of the Environment in compliance with Section 40 (1) (a) of the Solid Waste - Resource Management Regulations.

Motion carried.

Councillor Prall indicated that the existing Committee had completed its work and was now finished. For the purposes of overseeing the process of drafting an Inter-Municipal Agreement to the point of finalization and signatures affixed, however, an Interim Working Committee would need to be struck for continuity. It had been suggested that a reduced committee, of Elected Representatives only would keep the size of the Committee more workable. Once a new Board is ready, it will include Public Representatives as well as Elected Representatives.

Therefore *I* it was moved by Councillor Prall and seconded by Councillor Whittier to make the following motion:

WHEREAS the Region 5 Waste-Resource Management Committee has completed its mandate, as stated in the Committee's Constituting Resolution, by recommending a Regional Waste - Resource Management Plan to the eight Municipal Councils in the Region.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the eight Municipal Councils in Region 5 dissolve the Waste-Resource Management committee and authorize the eight council representatives on the Regional Committee to act in an interim capacity, with Mr. Paul Thomsen as Chair, to administer the operation of the Regional office until Councils appoint the permanent implementation authority to be defined by an Inter-Municipal Agreement.

Motion carried.

Councillor Prall also expressed a need for a further motion to deal with surplus funds that should be carried forward to the 1997/98 Budget for Region 5. After discussion, it was moved by Councillor Prall and seconded by Councillor Morse to make the following motion:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the eight Councils of Region 5 give approval to apply the surplus in the approved 1996/97 Region 5 Operating Budget, comprised of the interim diversion credit from the Resource Recovery Fund Board and other surplus operating funds (a projected total of \$29,000) to the 1997/98 Region 5 Operating Budget.

Motion carried.

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5.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a)

## Social Services

Councillor Morse reported that a Social Services committee Meeting had been held on February 27/97 with Acting Director, Mr. Wayne Hyson, in attendance. The Committee is monitoring costs very closely and is being kept informed regarding any significant changes. The February report for Social Services indicates that the number of recipients eligible for General Assistance is the same as that of February 1996. Costs have come in under budget for the current month, which may lower overexpenditures that have been projected for Berwick. The department will continue to monitor budgets, and a year-end report on program costs and evaluations will be prepared. Work will commence soon on preliminary 1997/98 Social Services Budget figures.

(b)

## Fire Department

councillor Prall reported that the Berwick and District Volunteer Fire Department had their monthly meeting last Monday, at which time they looked at the Fire Prevention Act Review: Discussion Paper put out by the Office of the Fire Marshal in conjunction with the Department of Labour. A meeting has been planned to meet with the Fire Department, Fire Committee, and Fire Commission to critique the Discussion Paper and submit a response to the Province by April

18th. There are recommendations that will restructure the functions of the Fire Marshal's Office and other local fire departments, as well as pass additional responsibilities onto municipalities. It may take more than one meeting to adequately address some of the issues being raised. The planned meeting will be held in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 03, 1997.

The new fire truck is in Dartmouth having specialized outfitting work completed. No firm date yet on delivery. Expect it will be ready shortly.

(c)

## Recreation

Councillor Trinacty reported that the regularly scheduled meeting of March 5/97 had been postponed until March 19/97; so he had nothing new to report, other than that March Break programs were underway and well-attended.

(d)

#### Public Works

councillor Whittier reported that it was "business as usual" for streets Department with snow and ice control. To date, 20 fewer tonnes of salt have been used, compared to this time last year.

However, still have remainder of March yet to go. The Public Works Foreman is away on a Wastewater Treatment Course, Class II; and three employees are scheduled to take a standard First Aid Course next week. The streets Department has been working with the Electric Commission to get caught up on tree removal program. The Sewer Treatment Plant Upgrade is still in progress, awaiting installation of Cell Curtain and completion of Electrical Consolidation Building. Projection of total expenditures is anticipated to be approximately \$20,000 under budget; this project is funded at 50% by the Provincial Capital Assistance Plan.

(e)

#### Finance

Councillor Reeves advised that the Finance Committee had not met since the end of January, but would be meeting in a week or two to review the latest Financial Statements.

In the meantime, a bit of housekeeping would be required; a motion should be made to have the necessary documents for Short-Term Borrowing with the N. S. Municipal Finance Corporation, for the Berwick Electric Commission, signed and put in place once the appropriate application forms are received.

Therefore, it was moved by Councillor Reeves and seconded by councillor Whittier that Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign an application for Short-Term Borrowings with N. S. Municipal Finance corporation in the amount of \$148,319, on behalf of the Berwick Electric Commission.

Motion carried.

(f)

#### Kings Transit Authority

Councillor Reeves informed Council of a Full Operational study that had been conducted on the Kings Transit Authority by the firm of Bishop Consulting Group from Willowdale, Ontario. The report analyzed strengths and weaknesses of the local transit, as well as proposing certain initiatives over a five-year implementation period.

Much of the report dealt with Part-Time versus Full-Time Employees, the Bus Route Corridor, additional Promotion & Advertising, need for Bus Shelters, possible need for Bus Garage, and so on. It was noted that of all the Transit Systems studied, Kings Transit Authority had the highest Revenue / Cost Ratio at \$.72. (This

would indicate that for every \$1.00 of expense an amount of \$.72 was

recovered by fare revenues). This compares to R/C Ratios of \$ .17 to \$.43 for the other seven transits listed in the study Report.

Generally, it was a favourable report. Next step is for Kings Transit Authority to prepare the 1997/98 Budget, then another Joint Council meeting should be held to determine the future direction of the transit. Some of the recommendations are sound, but are they affordable or practical? They have the potential to save dollars longterm, but will escalate short-term costs. Will have to look closely at each of the recommendations before making any decisions on implementation.

(g)

Western Kings Memorial Health Centre (Society)

\_councillor Reeves updated the council on the outcome of the recent tendering process for the Schoolboard: Berwick's WKMHC was the successful bidder (as you probably all are aware of by now.)  
The Municipality of the County of Kings has given notice to the schoolboard to vacate the existing premises by June 1, 1997, (previously July 15th). councillor Reeves indicated that renovations at the Centre are now well underway to try and meet the accelerated deadline. The schoolboard will be using the second and third floors: in part or in full.

(h)

Planning Advisory Committee

Deputy Mayor Munday advised that the February PAC meeting had been deferred for now. No new items before the Committee, and the Clerk is still researching Hydrology information for Berwick and area.

(i)

Kings C .E.D. Agency

Deputy Mayor Munday advised Council that he was unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Kings Community Economic Development Agency due to a prior commitment. However, wished to report that the student who had been hired to do a research study of Environmental Data for Kings county had resigned after only 5 weeks on the job. The original placement was to have run until May 1st, and grant monies are involved based on weeks of employment.

The Kings C. E . D . Agency is urgently trying to find a suitable replacement to finish the needed research. Deputy Mayor Munday will keep Council informed.

(j)

Police Commission

In the absence of the Mayor, the Acting Chairman advised that the Police Commission had made a recommendation at their most recent meeting of February 27, 1997 to ask Council to proceed with a consultant to study the Regionalization of a Valley Police Force, provided all four original municipal units participate.

Therefore, after brief discussion, it was moved by Councillor Morse and seconded by Councillor Whittier to recommend hiring of a consultant to proceed with the Regionalization study provided that all four original partners agree to be involved. Subject to cost approval.

Motion carried.

6.

CORRESPONDENCE

(i)

Received from Ann Longley, Municipality of the county of Kings, a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Mike Myette, Manager of the 911 Program, advising him of a motion from Council, that reads as follows:

" /

A letter be written to Mr. Mike Myette, Manager of the 911 Program, indicating that the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Kings goes on record that under no circumstances do they wish to see any changes or the loss of the 911 First Response from Kings County.

and in reply;

Received a copy of a letter from Mr. Mike Myette, to the Municipality of the County of Kings, which states that:

(ii)

I wish to reiterate our position as recently presented to the president of the Kings County Fire Association, that no changes which would result in loss of service are anticipated. In fact, MT&T has just completed the installation of new state of the art computer terminal equipment and staff training, which we believe will substantially improve & enhance the delivery of 911 service to the residents of your municipality.

For the information of Council.

"\_"

1 { per recommendations for further study listed under Recommendations, page 24 of Report on Police Services Sharing for Berwick, Hantsport, Kentville, & Wolfville, NSi compiled by R.A. Stead, Chair, December 1996.}

(iii)

(iv)

(v)

(vi)

Received from Mr. Jim Vidito, Kings Regional Housing Authority, a copy of the 1996 Audited Financial Statements.

It appears that Berwick will have to cover a deficit of \$2354. These statements are on file in the Clerk's office, if anyone wishes to read them. For the information of Council.

Received a letter from the Hon. Wayne Adams, Minister of the Environment, regarding Solid Wastes Mgmt. for Region 5; the letter reads in part, that:

The Solid Waste- Resource Management Regulations require that Region 5 must prepare & submit a regional waste resource management plan to the Minister... The necessity for the establishment of efficient economies of scale through regional cooperation and planning is imperative to the success of the plan. .. In general, the capital and operating costs of working on a regional basis are lower per tonne of solid waste...

I encourage you to complete your resource recovery plan as outlined in the Regulations. .. I appreciate the efforts of your region to date, and request the continued participation of your municipal unit, on the technical & steering committees.

For the information of Council.

Received from Warden Steven Stoddart, president of the UNSM, a Memo entitled "Update on the HST". A meeting was scheduled on March 4th/97 between Minister Smith, Minister Gillis, & Premier Savage, "to discuss the Government's response to the issue of HST and municipalities." Mr. Stoddart then indicates his belief that a meeting of the UNSM Executive and the two Ministers would take place shortly thereafter. No word to date on any outcome from that initial meeting. For the information of Council.

Received from Mr. Keith Nociar of Hayden Drive in Berwick, a letter outlining concerns about stray cats and a request for a Nuisance Animal Bylaw to deal with the problem. The letter reads as follows:

Let me begin by saying that the Town of Berwick has a problem with nuisance cats. I do not own a cat and yet my flower beds are continually used as litter boxes. This is not a pleasant thing to behold or smell. I

is not a pleasant thing to behold or smell. I know that it is cats that have left their calling cards behind as I have witnessed it and have also humanely caught the occasional culprit.

I would like to see cats covered under a Nuisance Animal Bylaw in the same way that dogs are. I am a dog owner and must adhere to the laws set down which govern dogs such as having to pay an annual licensing fee; and having the dog under control at all times or pay a fine. Why is it that dog owners are discriminated against in this fashion?

The cat problem is widespread, the SPCA, and Police have told me that cat complaints far outnumber that of dog complaints. The problem is further enhanced in that if someone should capture a nuisance cat there is nowhere to take the animal (the SPCA does not take cats unless it has a foster home for it, which is very rare).

I would like to see cat owners made to be responsible pet owners, and the Town use the money from the sale of cat licenses be used to provide shelter to keep stray cats until the owner picks them up or they are treated as unwanted dogs are.

Council discussed the matter and agreed that too many cats were just running wild, however problem perceived is that of stray cats, not of responsible cat owners. After further discussion it was agreed to take the letter under advisement.

Clerk to do some preliminary research and report to the Licensing/Bylaw Committee in due course. Send a letter to Mr. Nociar advising him of the direction taken.

(vii) Received from Corporal Harvey Churchill, a memo outlining a recent meeting held to organize a Neighbourhood watch Program in Berwick. At that meeting, it was suggested that a street light be installed by

the Town to light up the walkway that connects the Daniel Drive Subdivision to the back area of the Town Hall; or perhaps to have an existing light at the rear of the Church turned in that direction. Council discussed the request and instructed the Clerk to write a reply letter suggesting that the Neighbourhood Watch Program identify other areas that are unsafe, due to being poorly lit, and make a recommendation back to the Town. ( A decision will be made

7.

at that time) .

#### BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

It was moved and seconded by councillor Reeves and councillor Prall that the attached list of bills and accounts in the amount of \$ 75529.35 be approved for payment.

8.

#### NEW BUSINESS

(a)

##### Promotion of Berwick

councillor Morse raised the question that perhaps the Town should be considering a Feasibility Study in the next 3 to 5 years with reference to promoting the Town for Residential and Commercial developments, especially now that schoolbaord offices will be relocated here. Councillor Reeves advised that Council is not tasked with being an advertising medium and that Board of Trade already does promotes Berwick and area. It was suggested that Tourism may be an additional avenue for self-promotion, as well as certain

P. A. C. policies to encourage Land Use. Apparently, a development plan was put together in the early 1980's by the Board of Trade and the Town. After further discussion, it was agreed that it would be up to a new Council to decide on these types of issues, however, can lay the groundwork and record the query in the minutes.

There was a short break at 8: 50 p. m. prior to going to Committee-of-the-Whole at 8: 55 p. m. to discuss matters of a confidential nature. Regular Council resumed at 9: 50 p. m .

(b)

##### Parks Maintenance Position

Councillor Trinacty advised of the need for a Parks Maintenance Position for the Recreation Department to look after maintenance

and upkeep of Parks, Playgrounds, and various Town property and fixtures; and advised Council that the Recreation Committee had previously made a recommendation that such a position be created, especially now that grants were being cut, and liabilities and safety issues were increasing due to the Occupational Health &

Safety Act. After discussion of the matter, with considerations

being given to seasonal versus permanent employment; whether employee benefit plans would apply; rate of pay; other alternatives to get the work done; timing of start date for position; number of weeks to be worked; budgetary limitations of next fiscal year; generating user fees to help offset the cost; and the need to

keep the appearance of the Town's properties up to a certain uniform standard; the following motions were put forth:

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IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Munday and Councillor Whittier to recommend that the position of Seasonal Park Maintenance Person be created, ( with cost recoveries where possible by User Pay revenues) , under the direction of the Recreation Director.  
Hiring to be done by the Recreation Director in conjunction with the Recreation committee.

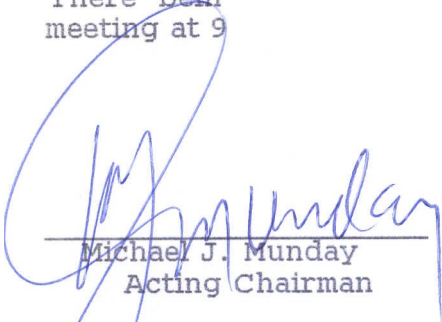
Motion carried

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Trinacty and seconded by Councillor Morse that the Recreation Committee, through the Recreation Director, be authorized to commence the hiring process for a seasonal Park Maintenance Person at \$9. DO/hour. Position to start mid-April 1997.

Motion carried

9.

There been  
meeting at 9



Michael J. Munday  
Acting Chairman

. g no further business, the Acting Chairman adjourned the :55 p.m.

Town Clerk